

S W I

- Firm we subsist, yet possible to *swerve*. *Milton.*
Many who, through the contagion of ill example, *swerve*
exceedingly from the rules of their holy faith, yet would up-
on such an extraordinary warning be brought to comply with
them. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
3. To ply; to bend.
Now their mightiest quell'd, the battle *swerv'd*
With many an iron road gor'd. *Milton.*
4. [I know not whence derived.] To climb on a narrow body.
Ten wildings have I gather'd for my dear,
Upon the topmost branch, the tree was high,
Yet nimbly up from bough to bough I *swerv'd*. *Dryden.*
She fled, returning by the way she went,
And *swerv'd* along her bow with swift ascent. *Dryden.*
- SWIFT. *adj.* [from *swift*, Saxon.]
1. Moving far in a short time; quick; fleet; speedy; nimble;
rapid.
Thou art so far before,
That *swiftest* wing of recompence is slow
To overtake thee. *Shakespeare.*
Yet are these feet, whose strengthless stay is numb,
Unable to support this lump of clay, *Shakespeare.*
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave. *Shakespeare.*
Men of war, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and
as *swift* as the roes upon the mountains. *1 Chron. xii. 8.*
We imitate and practise to make *swifter* motions than any
out of other muskets. *Bacon.*
To him with *swift* ascent he up return'd. *Milton.*
Things that move so *swift* as not to affect the senses di-
stinctly, with several distinguishable distances of their motion,
and so cause not any train of ideas in the mind, are not per-
ceived to move. *Locke.*
It preserves the ends of the bones from incalcescence, which
they, being solid bodies, would contract from any *swift* mo-
tion. *Ray.*
Thy stumbling founder'd jade can trot as high
As any other Pegasus can fly;
So the dull eel moves nimbler in the mud,
Than all the *swift* fin'd racers of the flood. *Dorset.*
Clouded in a deep abyss of light,
While present, too severe for human sight,
Nor staying longer than one *swift*-wing'd night. *Prior.*
Mantiger made a circle round the chamber, and the *swift*-
footed martin pursued him. *Arbutnot.*
There too my son,—ah once my best delight,
Once *swift* of foot, and terrible in fight. *Pope's Odyssey.*
Swift they descend, with wing to wing conjoin'd,
Stretch their broad plumes, and float upon the wind. *Pope.*
2. Ready.
Let every man be *swift* to hear, slow to speak. *Ja. i. 19.*
He made intricate seem straight,
To mischief *swift*. *Milton.*
- SWIFT. *n. f.* [from the quickness of their flight.]
1. A bird like a swallow; a martin.
Swifts and swallows have remarkably short legs, and their
toes grasp any thing very strongly. *Derham.*
2. The current of a stream.
He can live in the strongest *swifts* of the water. *Walter.*
- SWIFTLY. *adv.* [from *swift*.] Fleetly; rapidly; nimbly; with
celerity; with velocity.
These move *swiftly*, and at great distance; but then they
require a medium well disposed, and their transmission is ca-
sily stopped. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Pleas'd with the passage, we slide *swiftly* on,
And see the dangers which we cannot shun. *Dryden.*
In decent order they advance to light;
Yet then too *swiftly* fleet by human sight,
And meditate too soon their everlasting flight. *Prior.*
- SWIFTESS. *n. f.* [from *swift*.] Speed; nimbleness; rapidity;
quickness; velocity; celerity.
Let our proportions for these wars
Be soon collected, and all thing thought upon,
That may with reasonable *swiftness* add
More feathers to our wings. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
We may outrun
By violent *swiftness* that which we run at;
And lose by over running. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
Speed to describe whose *swiftness* number fails. *Milton.*
Exulting, till he finds their nobler sense
Their disproportion'd speed does recompense;
Then curses his conspiring feet, whose scent
Betrays that safety which their *swiftness* lent. *Denham.*
Such is the mighty *swiftness* of your mind,
That like the earth's, it leaves our sense behind. *Dryden.*
- TO SWIC. *v. n.* [from *swig*, Saxon.] To drink by large draughts.
TO SWILL. *v. a.* [from *swill*, Saxon.]
1. To drink luxuriously and grossly.
The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar
That spoil'd your summer fields and fruitful vines,
Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his trough
In your embowell'd bowels. *Shakespeare's Richard III.*

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- The most common of these causes are an hereditary dispo-
sition, *swilling* down great quantities of cold watery liquors,
Arbutnot on Diet.
- Such is the poet, fresh in pay,
The third night's profits of his play;
His morning draughts till noon can *swill*,
Among his brethren of the quill. *Swift.*
2. To wash; to drench.
As fearfully as doth a galled rock
O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,
Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean. *Shakespeare.*
With that a German oft has *swill'd* his throat,
Deluded, that imperial Rhine bestow'd
The generous rummer. *Philips.*
3. To inebriate.
I should be loth
To meet the rudeness and *swill'd* insolence
Of such late wallflowers. *Milton.*
He drinks a *swilling* draught; and lin'd within,
Will supple in the bath his outward skin. *Dryden.*
- SWILL. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Drink, luxuriously poured down.
Give swine such *swill* as you have. *Mortimer.*
Thus as they swim, in mutual *swill* the talk
Reels fast from theme to theme. *Thomson.*
- SWILLER. *n. f.* [from *swill*.] A luxurious drinker.
TO SWIM. *v. n.* Preterite *swam*, *swum*, or *swum*. [from *swim*,
Saxon; *swemmen*, Dutch.]
1. To float on the water; not to sink.
I will scarce think you have *swam* in a gondola. *Shakespeare.*
We have ships and boats for going under water, and brook-
ing of seas; also *swimming*-girdles and supporters. *Bacon.*
2. To move progressively in the water by the motion of the
limbs.
Leap in with me into this angry flood,
And swim to yonder point. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
I have ventur'd,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
I here many summers in a sea of glory;
But far beyond my depth. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
The soldiers counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of
them should *swim* out and escape. *Alti xxvii. 42.*
The rest driven into the lake, where seeking to save their
lives by *swimming*, they were slain in coming to land by the
Spanish horsemen, or else in their *swimming* shot by the har-
quebusiers. *Kneller.*
Animals *swim* in the same manner as they go, and need
no other way of motion for natation in the water, than for
progression upon the land. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
The frighted wolf now *swims* among the sheep,
The yellow lion wanders in the deep;
I he stag *swims* faster than he ran before. *Dryden.*
Blue Triton gave the signal from the shore,
The ready Nereids heard and *swam* before, *Dryden.*
To smooth the seas.
3. To be conveyed by the stream.
With tenders of our protection of them from the fury of
those who would soon drown them, if they refused to *swim*
down the popular stream with them. *King Charles.*
I *swam* with the tide, and the water under me was buoyant. *Dryden.*
4. To glide along with a smooth or dizzy motion.
She with pretty and with *swimming* gate
Follying, her womb then rich with my young quire
Would imitate. *Shakespeare.*
A hovering mist came *swimming* o'er his sight,
And seal'd his eyes in everlasting night. *Dryden.*
My slack hand dropt, and all the idle pomp,
Priests, altars, victims *swam* before my sight! *Smith.*
The fainting soul stood ready wing'd for flight,
And o'er his eye-balls *swam* the shades of night. *Pope.*
5. To be dizzy; to be vertiginous.
I am taken with a grievous *swimming* in my head, and such
a mist before my eyes, that I can neither hear nor see. *Dryd.*
6. To be floated.
When the heavens are filled with clouds, when the earth
swims in rain, and all nature wears a lowering countenance, I
withdraw myself from these uncomfortable scenes into the vi-
sionary worlds of art. *Addison's Spectator.*
Sudden the ditches swell, the meadows *swim*. *Thomson.*
7. To have abundance of any quality; to flow in any thing.
They now *swim* in joy,
Ere long to *swim* at large, and laugh; for which
The world a world of tears must weep. *Milton.*
- TO SWIM. *v. a.* To pass by swimming.
Sometimes he thought to *swim* the stormy main,
By stretch of arms the distant shore to gain. *Dryden.*
- SWIMM. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The bladder of fishes by which
they are supported in the water.
The braces have the nature and use of tendons, in contract-
ing the *swim*, and thereby transuding the air out of one blad-
der into another, or discharging it from them both. *Swimmer.*

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- SWIMMER. *n. f.* [from *swim*.]
1. One who swims.
Birds fired safe in the depth of the air, as *swimmers* do in a
deep water. *Bacon.*
Latrofitous and flat billed birds, being generally *swimmers*,
the organ is wisely contrived for action. *Brown.*
Life is oft preserv'd
By the bold *swimmer*, in the swift illapse
Of accident disastrous. *Thomson.*
2. The *swimmer* is situated in the fore legs of a horse, above
the knees, and upon the inside, and almost upon the back
part of the hind legs, a little below the ham: this part is with-
out hair, and resembles a piece of hard dry horn. *Farrier's Dict.*
- SWIMMINGLY. *adv.* [from *swimming*.] Smoothly; without
obstruction. A low word.
John got on the battlements, and called to Nick, I hope
the cause goes on *swimmingly*. *Arbutnot.*
- SWINE. *n. f.* [from *swin*, Saxon; *swyn*, Dutch. It is probably the
plural of some old word, and is now the same in both num-
bers.] A hog; a pig. A creature remarkable for stupidity
and naifness.
O monstrous beast! how like a *swine* he lies! *Shakespeare.*
He will be *swine* drunk, and in his sleep he does little harm,
save to his bedclothes. *Shakespeare.*
- Who knows not Circe,
The daughter of the Sun? whose charmed cup
Whoever tasted, lost his upright shape,
And downward fell into a groveling *swine*. *Milton.*
Had the upper part, to the middle, been of human shape,
and all below *swine*, had it been murder to destroy it? *Locke.*
How infinitely varies in the growling *swine*,
Compar'd, half reasoning elephant, with thine! *Pope.*
- SWINEHEAD. *n. f.* A kind of plant; trifles.
SWINEHEAD. *n. f.* [from *swin* and *head*, Saxon.] A keeper of
hogs.
There *swinehead*, that keepeth the hog. *Tusser.*
The whole interview between Ulysses and Eumeus has
fallen into ridicule: Eumeus has been judged to be of the
same rank and condition with our modern *swineheads*. *Brown.*
- SWINEPIE. *n. f.* A bird of the thrush kind. *Bailey.*
- TO SWING. *v. n.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
1. To wave too and fro hanging loosely.
I tried if a pendulum would *swing* faster, or continue *swing-
ing* longer in our receiver, in case of exsuction of the air,
than otherwise. *Boyle.*
If the coach *swung* but the least to one side, she used to
shriek so loud, that all concluded she was overturned. *Arbutnot.*
Jack hath hanged himself: let us go see how he *swings*. *Arb.*
When the *swinging* signs your ears offend
With creaking noise, then rainy floods impend. *Gay.*
2. To fly backward and forward on a rope.
TO SWING. *v. a.* preterite *swang*, *swung*.
1. To make to play loosely on a string.
2. To whirl round in the air.
His sword prepar'd
He *swang* about his head, and cut the winds. *Shakespeare.*
Take bottles and *swing* them: fill not the bottles full, but
leave some air, else the liquor cannot play nor flower. *Bacon.*
Swinging a red-hot iron about, or fastening it unto a wheel
under that motion, it will sooner grow cold. *Brown.*
Swing thee in the air, then dash thee down,
To th' hazard of thy brains and shatter'd sides. *Milton.*
3. To wave loosely.
If one approach to dare his force,
He *swings* his tail, and swiftly turns him round. *Dryden.*
- SWING. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Motion of any thing hanging loosely.
In casting of any thing, the arms, to make a greater *swing*,
are first cast backward. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Men use a pendulum, as a more steady and regular motion
than that of the earth; yet if any one should ask how he
certainly knows that the two successive *swings* of a pendulum
are equal, it would be very hard to satisfy him. *Locke.*
2. A line on which any thing hangs loose.
3. Influence or power of a body put in motion:
The ram that batters down the wall,
For the great *swing* and rudeness of his poize,
They place before his hand that made the engine. *Shakespeare.*
In this encyclopedia, and round of knowledge, like the great
wheels of heaven, we're to observe two circles, that, while we
are daily carried about, and whirled on by the *swing* and rap-
id of the one, we may maintain a natural and proper course in
the sober wheel of the other. *Brown.*
The descending of the earth to this orbit is not upon that
mechanical account Cartesius pretends, namely, the strong
swing of the more solid globuli that overflow it. *Mare.*
4. Course, unrestrained liberty; abandonment to any motive.
Facts unjust
Commit, even to the full *swing* of his lust. *Chapman.*
Take thy *swing*;
For not to take, is but the self-same thing. *Dryden.*

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- Let them all take their *swing*
To pillage the king,
And get a blue ribbon instead of a string. *Swift.*
5. Unrestrained tendency.
Where the *swing* goeth, there follow, fawn, flatter, laugh,
and lie lustily at other mens liking. *Afham's Scholastic.*
These exuberant productions only excited and fomented his
lusts; so that his whole time lay upon his hands, and gave him
leisure to contrive and with full *swing* pursue his follies. *Wood.*
Those that are so persuaded, desire to be wife in a way that
will gratify their appetites, and so give up themselves to the
swing of their unbounded propensities. *Glauco. Scept. Preface.*
Were it not for these, civil government were not able to
stand before the prevailing *swing* of corrupt nature, which
would know no honesty but advantage. *South.*
- TO SWINGE. *v. a.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
1. To whip; to bastinado; to punish.
Sir, I was in love with my bed: I thank you, you *swing'd*
me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for
your's. *Shakespeare's Two Gent. of Verona.*
- This very rev'rend lecher, quite worn out
With rheumatism, and crippled with his gout,
Forgets what he in youthful times has done,
And *swinges* his own vices in his son. *Dryd. juv. Juvenal.*
The printer brought along with him a bundle of those pa-
pers, which, in the phrase of the whig-coffeehouses, have
swinged off the Examiner. *Swift.*
2. To move as a lash. Not in use.
He, wroth to see his kingdom fail,
Swinges the fearful horror of his folded tail. *Milton.*
- SWINGE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A sway; a sweep of any thing
in motion. Not in use.
The shallow water doth her force infringe,
And renders vain her tail's impetuous *swinge*. *Waller.*
- SWINGEBUCKLER. *n. f.* [from *swing* and *buckler*.] A bully; a
man who pretends to feats of arms.
You had not four such *swingebucklers* in all the inns of court
again. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
- SWINGER. *n. f.* [from *swing*.] He who swings; a hurler.
SWINGING. *adj.* [from *swing*.] Great; huge. A low word.
The countryman seeing the lion disarmed, with a *swinging*
cudgel broke off the match. *L'Estrange.*
A good *swinging* sum of John's readiest cash went towards
building of Hocus's countryhouse. *Arbutnot.*
- SWINGINGLY. *adv.* [from *swinging*.] Vastly; greatly.
Henceforward he'll print neither pamphlets nor linen,
And, if swearing can do't, shall be *swingingly* maul'd. *Swift.*
- TO SWINGLE. *v. n.* [from *swing*.]
1. To dangle; to wave hanging.
2. To swing in pleasure.
- SWINK. *adj.* [from *swine*.] Befitting swine; resembling
swine; gross; brutal.
They clepe us drunkards, and with *swinish* phrase
Soil our addition. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
Swinish gluttony
Ne'er looks to heav'n amidst his gorgeous feast;
But, with besotted base ingratitude,
Craves and blasphemes his feeder. *Milton.*
- TO SWINK. *v. n.* [from *swink*, Saxon.] To labour; to toil; to
drudge. *Obsolete.*
Riches, renown, and principality,
For which men *swink* and sweat incessantly. *Fairy Queen.*
For they do *swink* and sweat to feed the other,
Who live like lords of that which they do gather. *Hub. Tale.*
- TO SWINK. *v. a.* To overlabour.
The labour'd ox
In his loose traces from the furrow came,
And the *swink'd* hedger at his supper sat. *Milton.*
- SWINK. *n. f.* [from *swink*, Saxon.] Labour; toil; drudgery. *Ob-
solete.*
Ah, Piers, been thy teeth on edge, to think
How great sport they gaynen with little *swinke*? *Spenser.*
Thou's but a lazy loorde,
And rekes much of thy *swinke*. *Spenser.*
- SWITCH. *n. f.* A small flexible twig.
Fetch me a dozen crabtree staves, and strong ones; these
are but *switches*. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
When a circle 'bout the wrist
Is made by beadle exorcist,
The body feels the spur and *switch*. *Hadibras.*
Mauritania, on the fifth medal, leads a horse with something
like a thread; in her other hand she holds a *switch*. *Addison.*
- TO SWITCH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To lash; to jerk.
Lay thy bridle's weight
Most of thy left side; thy right horse then *switching*, all thy
throat
Spent in encouragements, give him; and all the rein let
float. *Chapman's Iliad.*
- SWIVEL. *n. f.* Something fixed in another body so as to turn
round in it.